UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE: New Orleans, La.

FILE NO. CO-2-34,030

OFFICE: [illegible] Investigation of the [illegible]	STATUS: Investigation Continued	TITLE OR CAPTION: Assassination of President John F. Kennedy Lee Harvey Oswald
INVESTIGATION MADE AT: [illegible], La.	PERIOD COVERED: November 22, 1963 December 3, 1963	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY: [illegible] H. D. Vial; Anthony W. Gerrets; Roger Coates, [illegible]		

DETAILS:

[illegible]

As best as can be determined at the present time, Lee Harvey Oswald arrived in New Orleans from Texas on [illegible]/63. During the course of the investigation, various relatives of the subject were interviewed as were a former employer, [illegible] Daily Service Co., Inc. and employees of this company.

A former schoolmate of the subject was interviewed in addition to a number of people who came into contact with him.

Checks were made with the Reyflows Commercial Agency, Inc., [illegible], [illegible] Oswald, A. J. Hidell, Alex or [illegible] Hidell, Fair Play for Cuba and other names. Only the subject was of record. A check was made at the New Orleans Public Service in the names, Lee Harvey Oswald, A. J. Hidell, Alex or Alex Hidell and Fair Play for Cuba. Only Oswald was of record at 4907 Magazine St., City.

A check was also made at the New Orleans Better Business Bureau in the various names with negative results.

The New Orleans Office, La. State Unemployment Agency, furnished records to this office through the local FBI Office with reference to a claim filed by Oswald against the State of Texas.

Other agents of this office are in the process of preparing reports as to investigation as conducted by them.

DISTRIBUTION	COPIES	REPORT MADE BY	DATE
[illegible]	Orig. & 2 cc w/attach. 2 cc's w/ [illegible] 1 cc 1 cc 1 cc	[illegible] SPECIAL AGENT	12/3/63
[illegible]		APPROVED: [illegible] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DATE 12/3/63

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November 30, 1963

[illegible] 1:00 P. M. on 11-23-63 called the First District, NCPD, and attempted to contact Lt. J. Martello, Det. F. Hayward, or Det. F. Pilcher, as they had arrested Lee Harvey Oswald on 8-9-63. None of them was available for interview.

Lt. [illegible], officer, First District, advised that Oswald had been interviewed by Lt. Martello, who was formerly assigned to the Intelligence Unit, NCPD, but who was then assigned to the First District. However, that Lt. Martello had gone off duty at 12:00 P. M., 11-22-63, and could probably be contacted at his home, telephone number UR 1-9397.

A phone call was made to Lt. Martello's home but he was not available. At 2:30 A. M. another phone call was made to Lt. Martello's home and he furnished the following information:

He had interviewed Oswald either on a Saturday or Sunday morning with reference to Oswald's arrest on 8-9-63. Oswald had furnished his date of birth as 10-18-39; said he had served three years in the U. S. Marine Corps and claimed he received an honorable discharge on 9-27-59 at the Marine Air Station, El Toro, Santa Ana, Calif. Oswald had claimed he was married to the former Marina Prusakova but later said his wife's name was Marina Oswald and that she was an alien. He said he and his wife had one child, June Lee Oswald, 17 months of age, and they had been living at 4907 Magazine St., New Orleans, for about four months. Prior to coming to New Orleans, Oswald claimed he had lived at 4709 Mercedes St., Ft. Worth, Texas.

Oswald claimed his mother's name was Margaret Oswald, address not known, and that his father was Robert Lee Oswald, deceased. He said he had two brothers, Robert Oswald, who lived in Ft. Worth, Texas, and John Oswald, who lived in Arlington, Texas.

Oswald claimed he had attended the Beauregard School, New Orleans; Warren Easton High School, New Orleans; and a trade school, Arcadia-West, in Ft. Worth. He furnished his Social Security No. as 433-94-3037 and his Selective Service No. as 44-114-3[illegible].

Oswald claimed he had become interested in Fair Play for Cuba organization in Los Angeles, California, during 1958, while he was in the U. S. Marine Corps. In addition, Oswald had claimed there were about 35 members of the Fair Play for Cuba organization in New Orleans at the time, but declined to furnish any names.

Lt. Martello said that at the time of Oswald's arrest, he had various pamphlets in his possession and these had been kept by Lt. Martello. He said he would turn them over to this office if so desired. He also stated that before being transferred to the First District, he had been assigned to the Intelligence Division, NCPD, for about two years and that during this time he became familiar with various Communist Front organizations.

He said that an address in the 3100 block of Nine St., New Orleans, seemed to be the center of activity of New Orleans for various communist type front organizations. He said that a Mr. Weisman, a professor at Tulane University, lived at the Nine St. address where numerous meetings were held. He said he had learned from one of his

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[illegible] that Mr. [illegible] has been on several occasions at the home of Mr. [illegible] name of a member of Mr. Heinman, name unknown, who is also [illegible] professor at Tulane University. Mr. Heinman, the unknown professor, and Mr. Dombrowski were all said to be active in the integration movement in New Orleans.

Mr. Dombrowski is said to have migrated to the United States from Poland. In 1956 [illegible] he had held hearings in New Orleans and during these hearings a person [illegible] were allegedly identified as Dombrowski as a top member of the Communist Party in the South, along with [illegible], Mr. Eagle, Folk School, Mr. Eagle, [illegible].

Mr. Martello said he was asked Oswald [illegible] for members of the Fair Play for Cuba organization were held and Oswald [illegible] various places in New Orleans. He said he also asked him if any of the [illegible] held on Pine St. and Oswald had replied in the affirmative. He said he had asked him if he was acquainted with Mr. [illegible] and Oswald replied he was. He said he had also asked him if he knew Mr. Dombrowski and Oswald replied the question and never did answer it.

He said although Oswald refused to furnish the names of any of the 25 members of the Fair Play for Cuba group in New Orleans, Oswald had admitted that this group met about once each month.

Mr. Martello said there was a group in New Orleans organized under the name of the [illegible] Oswald was [illegible], and that Roberts was affiliated with that group, as were his attorneys, [illegible] and Bruce C. Waltner, Waltner being a New Orleans C. Talbot. Archer, who with Mr. Dombrowski appeared before the Eastland Committee in New Orleans in 1956, Bruce C. Waltner recommended Dombrowski.

Mr. Martello recalled that when Oswald was arrested on 8-9-63, Oswald's aunt, name and address not recalled, later determined to be [illegible], 757 French St., New Orleans, had called at the First District Police Station to inquire as to the reason for the arrest and after being informed that he had been distributing literature which was Pro-Castro, she refused to assist Oswald in any way.

While [illegible] had told Mr. Martello that Oswald had married a Russian girl after he [illegible] he [illegible]. As a result of the information furnished by the aunt, Mr. Martello [illegible] pre-interviewed Oswald while he was still in jail and obtained the following information:

Oswald was [illegible] years of age, was and he worked at the William B. Reilly Coffee Co., Inc., [illegible] New Orleans. He claimed he had worked on many machinery. [illegible] said that he started work at the company in [illegible] 17, 1962. He claimed that prior to that he had worked at the [illegible] Co., New Orleans, for one and one-half months.

He said Oswald had told him that his name, Mrs. Joel Garrett, was related to a local New Orleans politician, the name of this person not recalled.

Mr. Martello said Oswald spoke about his Marxist ideal but he said the remark that he did not believe in free enterprise. He said he asked him if he believed in Communism, but Oswald laughed and said he did not go for that. He said he asked him if he did believe and Oswald replied what Khrushchev was just like the politicians in America. He said Oswald told him that he had been very much impressed with the Russian system of Government but that the people in power there were nothing but politicians.

Mr. Martello was told that when time permitted, someone from our office would personally interview him at which time the literature which had been seized from Oswald would be placed up.

Shortly after the phone conversation with Mr. Martello, Mr. Anthony E. Garrett, New Orleans, made a long phone call to the Secret Service, Dallas. Mr. Jim Phillips, who was then in the Dallas Office, listened to the phone conversation. Information developed by us was furnished Mr. Stewart and Phillips.

On the morning of Saturday, 11-23-63, called at the William B. Reilly Coffee Co., Inc., 640 Magazine St., New Orleans, and jointly interviewed Mr. William B. Reilly, Vice President in charge of finance, and Mr. William B. Reilly III, Vice President in charge of operations. Neither remembered the Harvey Oswald. They furnished the employment file with reference to Oswald which consisted the following listed items:

Retail Credit Company - Character - Financial Report
Application for Employment

Both were photostated and copies were obtained for our use.

The Retail Credit Company - Character - Financial Report under Item 27, reflects as follows:

"Mr. Lee Harvey Oswald is employed as a maintenance man for the Standard Coffee Company, and has been so employed in this occupation for the past one week, and enjoys a favorable business reputation. Previous to this, he was in the U. S. Marines for some three years. He enjoys a favorable business reputation, and his prospects for the future appear to be favorable. (The Standard Coffee Company is a branch of the William B. Reilly Coffee Co., Inc.)

FINANCIAL: His present and past financial standing is good, and he is regarded as an individual who lives within his means. Learned of no illness or physical impairments that might affect his earning capacity.

CHARACTER-HOME CHARACTERISTICS: His character, habits, and morals are good, and he is known to keep good associates, and well regarded. He resides with his wife and child. They live in a middle class residential section with frame homes that are well kept, and living conditions are adequate. Stability and class of residents in this section is good."

According to the records of the New Orleans Public Service, Inc., R. J. Haydel, Sr. had moved from 331 Octavia St., City, to 1935 Upperline St. on 9-23-41, and he is still receiving gas and electric service at the latter address.

The records show that John or Patricia J. Lacaze live at 4909 Danneel St. and have been residing at this address since 3-22-62. The writer recalled interviewing a John and Patricia Lacaze, payees of a check, file 3-13-5333 some years ago.

A photostat of Install Order No. 13237, dated 3-22-62, was obtained. It shows that the Lacaze's have phone numbers 895-7874 and TW 9-0334, the latter number being the phone number of R. J. Haydel, Sr., 1935 Upperline St., City.

Upon returning to the office, R. J. Haydel, Jr., after having been interviewed by SA Gerrets and SAIC Rice, was preparing to depart the office. He was interviewed by the writer and stated phone number 895-7874 had been changed to 891-5365. Further, that he was more or less living in a common-law relationship with Patricia Lacaze, co-payee, file 3-13-5333. Further, that as he is an electrician and is seldom home, Patricia Lacaze takes his phone calls for him. He indicated he expects to marry her at a future date.

On 11-26-63 called at Ed Smith Stencil Works, 426 Camp St., New Orleans, and interviewed Mr. J. B. Moore, Vice President. A copy of the application form, The Fair Play for Cuba Committee, bearing the name "A.J Hidell, P. O. Box 30016, New Orleans, La." was shown to him. He said without a doubt this had been made with a Superior Swiftset, No. 2[illegible]. He said these sets cost $2.50, were manufactured by the Superior Equipment Co., Chicago, and were sold by practically all stationery stores, department stores, etc. He said the set contained all the letters in the alphabet and using the set a person could make name stamps in any combination of names.

Mr. Moore was shown a photograph of Oswald but stated he had never seen this person before.

On 11-26-63 called at the New Orleans Better Business Bureau and made name checks in the following names:

Fair Play for Cuba - negative
Lee Harvey Oswald - negative
A. J. Hidell, Alex James Hidell-Haydel - negative
Dr. Leonard Reissman - negative

There was a file under the name Directorio Revoluncionario Estudiantil. It was reviewed and reflected that the local representative is Carlos Bringuier. Further, that a Mrs. Geraci had called the Better Business Bureau on an unknown date to advise that Bringuier had given her son a book of tickets to sell. The Better Business Bureau had checked with City Hall, New Orleans, and was informed that Bringuier had called at City Hall and was given the necessary form to execute in order to make it legal for him to sell tickets or bonds in connection with the Cuban Student Directorate. The file reflects that Mrs. Geraci had been so notified.

There was a file on the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front, Crusade to Free Cuba, P. O. Box 50523, New Orleans, which had been rented as of 10-2-62 under the above listed name. This file was reviewed but nothing of interest was noted.

There was also a file under the title of The Information Council of the Americas, INCA Truth Tapes Headquarters, 620 Gravier St., New Orleans, phone 523-3614. This file was reviewed but nothing of interest was noted.

On 11-26-63 SA Gerrets received a telephone call from Mr. Robert Critcher, Field Representative, Louisiana State Unemployment Office, 630 Camp St., New Orleans. He stated that Lee Harvey Oswald had registered with their office for unemployment benefits, had filed a claim for benefits and was registered for work.

Mr. Critcher said that the last time Oswald reported to his office was about 1½ months ago when he filed a claim for benefits. Further, that all wage claims were against the State of Texas. He stated that should we desire to review the records, we should first contact Mr. Jerminal Messina, District Superintendent, State of Louisiana, Department of Labor, Division of Employment Security, 430 Canal St., City, phone 524-1741.

The same date made phone call to Mr. Messina and he stated that early on the morning of 11-26-63 an FBI agent had been given all of the records pertaining to Oswald.

He said his office had made a check in the name A. J. Hidell and various other spellings of this name with negative results.

SAIC Rice later contacted ASAIC Sylvester, FBI, New Orleans, and he stated that if Mr. Messina would authorize his office to make a reproduction of the records pertaining to Oswald, his office would make some and furnish them to this office. SAIC Rice contacted Mr. Messina by phone and he stated he would contact the FBI office and authorize the reproduction of the records. They were furnished this office by SA Leon Caskell, FBI, on 11-27-63, and a copy of the complete record was furnished the Dallas office by Office Memorandum dated 11-29-63.

On 11-26-63 LD phone call was made to Capt. R. E. Horton, Louisiana State Police, Baton Rouge, La. He was requested to make a name check in the following listed names and advise this office of the results immediately:

Lee Harvey Oswald
Clay Bertrand
Fair Play for Cuba
A. J. Hidell-Haydel, etc.

The same date a phone call was received from Capt. Horton. He stated that he had an FBI transcript of the criminal record of Oswald, as well as a fingerprint card re Oswald, and would furnish us with a copy of each. Also, that he had a record of James Abner Haydel, home address, Bunkie, La., who had been arrested at Houma, La. on 1-o-55 for indecent exposure. He said he would furnish a photostat of the fingerprint card of the subject in the event it would be of any value.

He said his office also had a list of the members of the Fair Play for Cuba organization [illegible] information but that he could not furnish this unless authorized to do so by Colonel Jordan of the State Police. He said he had no reason to believe that Colonel Jordan would not authorize him to furnish it, but he would check with him and [illegible] approval, he, Capt. Morson would send the list along, with the other items requested, by a State trooper. This material was delivered in the office on the morning of 11-27-63.

[illegible] furnished has been reviewed and none of the names mentioned have been associated with any of the persons being investigated at the present time.

On 11-26-63, with Sgt Carroll, called at the [illegible] Ranger Camp, 4916 Canal St., phone [illegible], where he interviewed Edward Voebel, a former schoolmate of Lee Harvey Oswald.

He stated that in either 1954 or 1955 he had persuaded Oswald to join the Civil Air Patrol, Moisant Unit, Jefferson Parish. He said Oswald attended about four meetings and then dropped out, giving as his reason for doing so the fact that it was a considerable distance from his home on Lakeshore Place to Moisant Airport.

Voebel said when he joined the CAP, Capt. [illegible] Parrie, a former pilot or co-pilot for Delta or Eastern Airlines, was the commander. He could not say if Capt. Parrie was the commander at the time Oswald joined. He said he does not know if Oswald was associated with Parrie, who is also [illegible].

Voebel said he has had no contact with Oswald in the last eight years. He promised to contact this office in the event he should think of anything that would be of value to this office.

Voebel also mentioned that he collects guns. He stated that he has an Italian-make rifle of the same type as the one allegedly used to shoot the President; that he shot this rifle several times, but it is so poorly constructed he decided that it was best not to shoot it anymore for the reason he was afraid it would explode.

A local attorney, [illegible], with whom SAC Rice is acquainted, had informed SAC Rice that a person furnishing his name as [illegible] had called him and asked him if he was interested in defending Oswald. (The exact particulars concerning the call received from [illegible] will be set forth in a report to be submitted by SAC Rice.)

There are a number of [illegible] listed in the New Orleans Telephone Book. None listed [illegible] Clay. There is a Charles S. [illegible], 1321 Monville St., Park, phone 821-7427. [illegible] for Charles S. [illegible] for Lawrence Clay, on 11-26-63 by phone contacted Mrs. Charlene [illegible], Apt. 3, 1321 Monville St., Park. She stated her husband's full name is Charles Gurney [illegible]; that he is a doctor and could be contacted at the [illegible] Medical Bldg., Charity Hospital, New Orleans, 523-8311. She stated she did not [illegible] anyone named Clay [illegible].

[illegible] 11-26-63 [illegible] Carroll called at Pan American Films, 822 N. Rampart St., City, and obtained a roll of film in accordance with the previous arrangements made by SAC Rice.

[illegible] with Sgt Carroll called at the [illegible] Co., 1020 N. Rampart St., City, where he obtained various still shots in accordance with previous arrangements made by SAC Rice.

On 11-27-63 interviewed [illegible] Kennedy, 5th Camp St., New Orleans, home address [illegible] New Orleans, for the reason since further, previously mentioned, and [illegible] Kennedy and then the man he asked to rent an office at 5th Camp, [illegible] he wanted office furniture such as desks and tables and that he wanted to hold meetings at night. Mrs. Kennedy emphatically stated that she had not seen the man in question. She said it was well known that Arthur was an envious rental [illegible] and that he sometimes made foolish statements to correct attention. She was shown a photo of Oswald but stated she had never seen him before.

Lee Harvey Oswald is alleged to have had some conversation with Philip Geraci III, 2201 Green Acres Road, in the store of Carlos Bringuier, on 11-20-63 attempted to contact Geraci by phone, [illegible]. It was learned that his number has been changed. Subsequent to this, S. Leon Gaskell, FBI, New Orleans, informed the writer that agents of his office had interviewed Geraci who acknowledged that he had talked to Oswald for a very short time while he, Geraci, was waiting to speak to Bringuier. SA Gaskell said that Geraci could furnish no information of value.

On 11-30-63 contacted Carlos [illegible], 3113 Ferret Place, New Orleans, phone [illegible]. He stated he was furnishing the following information in confidence for the reason his father is in prison in Cuba and if the wrong persons should learn that he is cooperating with the Government, he feels that the Castro Government might harm his mother and father.

Carlos said that after Oswald had been arrested on 8-9-63, Carlos Bringuier ordered him to infiltrate Oswald's organization if he could. He said he went to Oswald's home at 4907 Magazine St., New Orleans, the date not recalled, but it was between the date Oswald appeared in court and the date of the debate, possibly on 8-16-63.

He said he spent about one hour talking to Oswald who told him he learned to speak Russian at Tulane University, New Orleans. (Carlos said Oswald spoke to his young daughter in a foreign language. When Carlos asked Oswald what language he was speaking, Oswald said Russian.) He said Oswald had not mentioned to him that he had defected to Russia. He said Oswald asked him to join the Fair Play for Cuba group and had given him an application form. Oswald told him he could join for $1.

He said that during the conversation, Oswald stated that if the United States should invade Cuba, he, Oswald, would fight on the side of the Castro Government.

He said Oswald never did mention any of the names of members of the Fair Play for Cuba group. He did say that meetings were held at various private homes in New Orleans.

Carlos said he had been willing to join the Fair Play for Cuba group provided it was done with the backing of the FBI or the local police force. He said he had made this known to Lt. Martello, NOPD, who apparently forgot about it.

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